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Of words they seldom know more than the grammatical construction, unless they are born with a poetical genius, which is a rare *portion* amongst them.

As soon as any good appears to make a part of their *portion* of happiness, they begin to desire it.

When he considers the manifold temptations of poverty and riches, and how fatally it will affect his happiness to be overcome by them, he will join with Agur in petitioning God for the safer *portion* of a moderate convenience.

One or two faults are easily to be remedied with a very small *portion* of abilities.

3. Part of an inheritance given to a child; a fortune.

Leave to thy children tumult, strife and war,

Portions of toil, and legacies of care.

4. A wife's fortune.

To *PORTION*. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To divide; to parcel.

The gods who *portion* out

The lots of princes as of private men,

Have put a bar between his hopes and empire.

Argos the feat of sovereign rule I chose,

Where my Ulysses and his race might reign,

And *portion* to his tribes the wide domain.

2. To endow with a fortune.

Him *portion'd* maids, apprentic'd orphans blest,

The young who labour, and the old who rest.

PORTIONER. *n. f.* [from *portion*.] One that divides.

PORTLINESS. *n. f.* [from *portly*.] Dignity of mien; grandeur of demeanour.

Such pride is praise, such *portlinefs* is honour,

That boldness innocence bears in her eyes;

And her fair countenance like a goodly banner

Spreads in defiance of all enemies.

When substantialness combineth with delightfulness, ful-

ness with fineness, seemliness with *portlinefs*, and curtness

with flayedness, how can the language sound other than most

full of sweetness?

PORTLY. *adj.* [from *port*.]

1. Grand of mien.

Rudely thou wrong'dst my dear heart's desire,

In finding fault with her too *portly* pride.

Your Argosies with *portly* fail,

Like signiors and rich burghers on the flood,

Or as it were the pageants of the sea,

Do overpeer the petty traffickers.

A *portly* prince, and goodly to the fight,

He seem'd a son of Anak for his height.

2. Bulky; swelling.

A goodly, *portly* man and a corpulent; of a cheerful look,

a pleasing eye, and a most noble carriage.

Our house little deserves

The scourge of greatness to be used on it;

And that same greatness too, which our own hands

Have help'd to make so *portly*.

PORTMAN. *n. f.* [port and man.] An inhabitant or burgess,

as those of the cinque ports.

PORTMANTEAU. *n. f.* [portemanteau, Fr.] A chest or bag in

which cloaths are carried.

I defied him to carry one of my *portmanteaus*; but he

laughed, and bid another do it.

PORTOISE. *n. f.* In sea language, a ship is said to ride a *por-*

toise, when she rides with her yards struck down to the

deck.

PORTRAIT. *n. f.* [portrait, Fr.] A picture drawn after the

life.

As this idea of perfection is of little use in *portraits*, or the

resemblances of particular persons, so neither is it in the char-

acters of comedy and tragedy, which are always to be drawn

with some specks of frailty, such as they have been described

in history.

The figure of his body was strong, proportionable, beau-

tiful; and were his picture well drawn, it must deserve the

praise given to the portraits of Raphael.

To *PORTRAIT*. *v. a.* [portraire, Fr. from the noun.] To

draw; to portray. It is perhaps ill copied, and should be

written in the following examples *portray*.

In most exquisite pictures, they blaze and *portrait* not only

the dainty lineaments or beauty, but also round about shadow

the rude thickets and craggy cliffs.

I *portrait* in Arthur before he was king, the image of a

brave knight, perfected in the twelve private moral virtues.

PORTRAITURE. *n. f.* [portraiture, Fr. from *portray*.] Picture;

painting; resemblance.

By the image of my cause I see

The *portraiture* of his.

Let some strange myfterious dream,

Wave at his wings in airy stream

Of lively *portraiture* display'd,

Softly on my eye-lids laid.

Herein was also the *portraiture* of a hart.

POS

This is the *portraiture* of our earth, drawn without

flattery.

Her wry-mouth'd *portraiture*

Display'd the fates her confessors endure.

He delineates and gives us the *portraiture* of a perfect

orator.

To *PORTRAY*. *v. a.* [portraire, Fr.]

1. To paint; to describe by picture.

The Earl of Warwick's ragged staff is yet to be seen *por-*

trayed in many places of their church steeple.

Take a tile, and to *portray* upon it the city Jerusalem. *Ec.*

Our Phenix queen was *portrayed* too bright,

Beauty alone could beauty take to right.

2. To adorn with pictures.

Shields

Various, with boastful argument *portray'd*.

PORTRESS. *n. f.* [from *porter*] A female guardian of a gate.

Janitrix.

The *portress* of hell-gate reply'd.

The shoes put on, our faithful *portress*

Admits us in to storm the fortress;

While like a cat with walnuts shod,

Stumbling at ev'ry step she trod.

PORTWIGLE. *n. f.* A tadpole or young frog not yet fully shaped.

That black and round substance began to grow oval, after

a while the head, the eyes, the tail to be discernible, and at

last to become that which the ancients called *gyrinus*, we a

portwigle or tadpole.

PORE. *adj.* [poreus, Fr. from *pore*.] Full of pores.

To the court arriv'd th' admiring son

Beholds the vaulted roofs of *pore* stone.

To *POSE*. *v. a.* [from *pose*, an old word signifying heaviness

or stupefaction. *zepele*. *Shinner*.]

1. To puzzle; to gravel; to put to a stand or stop.

Learning was *pos'd*, philosophy was set,

Sophisters taken in a filier's net

How God's eternal son should be man's brother,

Poseth his proudest intellectual power.

As an evidence of human infirmities, I shall give the fol-

lowing instances of our intellectual blindness, not that I de-

sign to *pose* them with those common enigmas of magnetism.

Particularly in learning of languages, there is least occasion

for *posing* of children.

2. To appose; to interrogate.

She in the presence of others *pos'd* him and sifted him,

thereby to try whether he were indeed the very duke of York

or no.

POSER. *n. f.* [from *pose*.] One that asketh questions to try

capacities; an examiner.

He that questioneth much, shall learn much; but let his

questions not be troublesome, for that is fit for a *poser*.

POSITED. *adj.* [positus, Lat.] It has the appearance of a partic-

iple preter, but it has no verb.] Placed; ranged.

That the principle that sets on work these organs is nothing

else but the modification of matter, or the natural motion

thereof thus, or thus *posited* or disposed, is most apparently

false.

POSITION. *n. f.* [position, Fr. *positio*, Latin.]

1. State of being placed; situation.

Iron having stood long in a window, being thence taken,

and by the help of a cork balanced in water, where it may

have a free mobility, will bewray a kind of inquietude till it

attain the former *position*.

They are the happiest regions for fruits, by the excellence

of soil, the *position* of mountains, and the frequency of

floods.

Since no one sees all, and we have different prospects of

the same things, according to our different *positions* to it, it is

not incongruous to try whether another may not have notions

that escaped him.

By varying the *position* of my eye, and moving it nearer to

or farther from the direct beam of the sun's light, the colour

of the sun's reflected light constantly varied upon the speculum

as it did upon my eye.

We have a different prospect of the same thing, according

to the different *position* of our understandings toward it.

Place ourselves in such a *position* toward the object, or place

the object in such a *position* toward our eye, as may give us

the clearest representation of it; for a different *position* greatly

alters the appearance of bodies.

2. Principle laid down.

Of any offence or sin therein committed against God, with

what conscience can ye accuse us, when your own *positions*

are, that the things we observe should every one of them be

dearer unto us than ten thousand lives.

Let not the proof of any *positions* depend on the *positum*

that follow, but always on those which go before.

3. Advancement of any principle.

A fallacious illation is to conclude from the *position* of the

antecedent unto the *position* of the consequent, or the remo-

tion of the consequent to the remotion of the antecedent.

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4. [In grammar.] The state of a vowel placed before two

consonants, as *pampus*; or a double consonant, as *axile*.

POSITIONAL. *adj.* [from *position*.] Respecting position.

The leaves of cataputia or spurge plucked upwards or

downwards, performing their operations by-purge or vomit;

as old wives still do preach, is a strange conceit, ascribing unto

plants *positional* operations.

POSITIVE. *adj.* [positivus, Lat. *positif*, Fr.]

1. Not negative; capable of being affirmed; real; absolute.

The power or blossom is a *positive* good, although the re-

move of it, to give place to the fruit, be a comparative

good.

Hardness carries somewhat more of *positive* in it than im-

penetrability, which is negative; and is perhaps more a con-

sequence of solidity, than solidity itself.

Whatever doth or can exist, or be considered as one

thing, is *positive*; and so not only simple ideas and substances,

but modes also are *positive* beings, though the parts, of which

they consist, are very often relative one to another.

2. Absolute; particular; direct; not implied.

As for *positive* words, that do not bear arms against

king Edward's son; though the words seem calm, yet it was

a plain and direct over-ruling of the king's tide.

3. Dogmatical; ready to lay down notions with confidence;

stubborn in opinion.

I am sometimes doubting, when I might be *positive*, and

sometimes confident out of season.

Some *positive* perishing fops we know,

That, if once wrong, will needs be always so;

But you, with pleasure own your errors past,

And make each day a critic on the last.

4. Settled by arbitrary appointment.

In laws, that which is natural, bindeth universally, that

which is *positive*, not so.

Although no laws but *positive* be mutable, yet all are not

mutable which be *positive*; *positive* laws are either permanent

or else changeable, according as the matter itself is, concern-

ing which they were made.

Laws are but *positive*; love's pow'r we see,

Is nature's sanction, and her first decree.

5. Having the power to enact any law.

Not to consent to the enacting of such a law, which has

no view besides the general good, unless another law shall

at the same time pass, with no other view but that of ad-

vancing the power of one party alone; what is this but to

claim a *positive* voice, as well as a negative.

6. Certain; assured.

POSITIVELY. *adv.* [from *positive*.]

1. Absolutely; by way of direct position.

Give me some breath, some little pause,

Before I *positively* speak in this.

The good or evil, which is removed, may be esteemed

good or evil comparatively, and not *positively* or simply.

2. Not negatively.

It is impossible that any successive duration should be ac-

tually and *positively* infinite, or have infinite successions already

gone and past.

3. Certainly; without dubitation.

It was absolutely certain, that this part was *positively* yours,

and could not possibly be written by any other.

4. Peremptorily; in strong terms.

I would ask any man, that has but once read the bible,

whether the whole tenor of the divine law does not *positively*

require humility and meekness to all men.

POSITIVENESS. *n. f.* [from *positive*.]

1. Actuality; not mere negation.

The *positiveness* of sins of commission lies both in the habi-

tude of the will and in the executed act too; whereas the *po-*